

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-9, 11-16 and 21-23 were pending. Claims 9 and 11-16 stand allowed, claims 1-8 were rejected, and claims 21-23 were withdrawn. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 21-23 remain pending in the subject application.

Allowance of claims 9 and 11-16 is noted with thanks.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, in order to put this case into condition for allowance, claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of allowed claim 15, and claim 21 has been amended to include limitations of allowed claim 9. In addition, claim 21 has been amended to more clearly read on the elected species. Moreover, claim 21 is generic so dependent claims 22 and 23 should be given consideration, and allowed for at least the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

In response to the Advisory Action, the status identifier of claim 21 has been corrected pursuant to the Examiner's request.

As explained by the undersigned to the Examiner in a telephone conference earlier today, claim 21 was previously examined in the Office Action of June 16, 2006. In response to the June 16, 2006 Office Action, claim 21 was amended. In the Final Office Action dated October 19, 2006, the Examiner opined that claim 21, as then amended, was drawn to a non-elected species. Rather than argue with the Examiner, pursuant to this Amendment After Final, the previous amendments to claim 21, as submitted in the Amendment of August 4, 2006 and that caused the Examiner to be of the opinion that claim 21 reads on a non-elected species, have been removed. In addition, in order to try and put claim 21 into condition for allowance, claim 21 has been further

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amended to include limitations of allowed claim 9. Thus, it is respectfully argued that claim 21 is allowable.

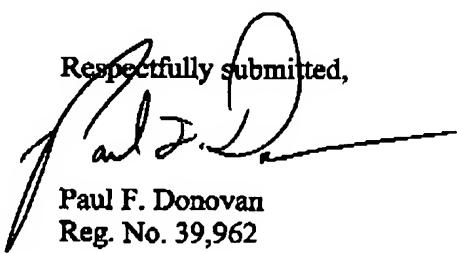
Although the undersigned appreciates that this case is under Final, the undersigned wishes to remind the Examiner that the applicant has already filed two RCE's and has expended significant resources to prosecute this application. Moreover, at this stage of the prosecution, the applicant is not trying to argue with the Examiner; rather, the applicant is simply trying to take what the Examiner is willing to allow. It is respectfully argued that had claim 21 been previously amended to read as it now reads, claim 21 would have been allowed. Thus, although claim 21 was previously withdrawn, in the interests of fairness and efficiency, taking into account the extensive prosecution in this case and the applicant's willingness to simply take the allowable subject matter, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider claim 21 in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein. Allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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